

### **REMARKS**

In view of the above amendments and following remarks, reconsideration of the rejections contained in the Office Action of November 30, 2005 is respectfully requested.

It is initially noted that a number of minor editorial changes have been made to the specification and abstract for the sake of placing the application into a form more consistent with U.S. practice.

It is also noted that the Examiner rejected claims 2, 4, 8 and 15-20 as being indefinite. However, all of the claims have been canceled and replaced with new claims 21-35. These claims have been drafted so as to avoid the issues raised by the Examiner in section 3 on page 2 of the Office Action. Thus, this rejection has been rendered moot.

The Examiner rejected claims 1 and 12-14 as being unpatentable over Green. The Examiner further indicated that claims 9-11 would be allowable if redrafted into independent form so as to include all of the limitations of the base claim and any intervening claims.

The Examiner's indication of allowable subject matter is gratefully acknowledged. It is noted, however, that there was no substantive rejection of any of claims 2-8 and 15-20, and thus these claims should also have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter. Further, it is noted that there was no rejection on any basis of claims 3 and 5-7. Thus these claims should also have been indicated as containing allowable subject matter.

In any case, the rejections raised by the Examiner with respect to Green have been rendered moot by the present response. Accompanying this response is a verified translation of Applicants' priority application MI 2002A 001970. Because this document fully supports all of the claims pending in the present application, it is respectfully submitted that all of the claims are entitled to benefit of the filing date of the priority application, which was filed September 17, 2002.

The cited U.S. patent to Green has an effective reference date of August 19, 2003 under 35 U.S.C. §102(e). Applicants' priority date of September 17, 2002 is almost eleven months prior to that date.

Reviewing the verified translation, it can quickly be seen that all of the claims in the present application are fully supported by the priority document. Note for example the correspondence

between the figures in the priority document and the present application. Fully note the detailed description beginning at the top of page 4 of the translation. Further please note the correspondence between the subject matter of new claims 21-34 and claims 1-13 of the priority application (one aspect of claim 1 of the priority application is now set forth in claim 32 of the present application).

New independent claim 35 reflects the same features as recited previously and in the priority document. In addition, it specifically recites a means for connecting the basic element to a harness adapted to be used on water craft; a number of such means are specifically discussed in the present application and in the priority application.

Accordingly, it may be seen that all of the claims in the present application are entitled to benefit of the priority date of September 17, 2002. Green may thus not be used against the claims of the present application, and withdrawal of the rejections made by the Examiner against the claims of the present application based upon Green is respectfully requested.

In view of the above amendments and remarks, it is submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance, and the Examiner is requested to pass the case to issue. If the Examiner should have any comments or suggestions to help speed the prosecution of this application, the Examiner is requested to contact Applicants' undersigned representative.

Respectfully submitted,

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